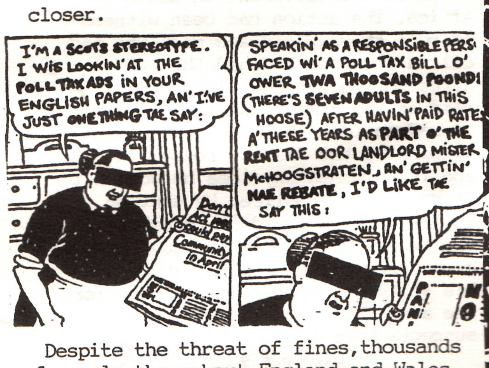
Echomedia

april '90

STOP THE POLL TAX

In April, Councils throughout England and Wales will be sending out the first bills for the Government's Poll Tax. Every adult will be expected to pay the same level of Poll Tax, reguardless of income. People living in overcrowded, previously low-rated homes will suffer most, especially in inner-city areas where Councils have been forced to levy a high Poll Tax to maintain services. Overall, working class people will generally be worse off, whilst the rich will benefit greatly. All adults are expected to register where they live, and when they move, and Poll Tax officers have been given unlimited access to sources of information on residents. The Government is moving towards introducing compulsory I.D. cards and the threat of a Police state is closer.


I'M A SCOTS STEREOTYPE. I WIS LOOKIN' AT THE POLL TAX ADS IN YOUR ENGLISH PAPERS, AN' I'VE JUST ONE THING TAE SAY:
SPEAKIN' AS A RESPONSIBLE PERS FACED WI' A POLL TAX BILL O' OWER TWA THOOSAND POONDS (THERE'S SEVEN ADULTS IN THIS HOOSE) AFTER HAVIN' PAID RATES A' THESE YEARS AS PART O' THE RENT TAE OOR LANDLORD MISTER McHOOGSTRATEN, AN' GETTIN' NAE REBATE, I'D LIKE TAE SAY THIS:

Despite the threat of fines, thousands of people throughout England and Wales have refused to register. In Scotland, where the Poll Tax has been in force for a year, 1 in 4 people are not paying, in Glasgow 41% are not paying! Anti-Poll Tax groups have sprung up in all areas. Local Councils seem unable to do anything - not one warrant sale has been successfully carried out, and the Government is being humiliated.

DINNA PANIC!! I HAINNAE PAID A PENNY O' POLL TAX A' YEAR, AN' THERE NIGH ON A MILLION IN SCOTLAND LIKE ME — AN' THAT'S OOT O' 3.7 MILLION WHO'RE ELIGIBLE TAE PAY THE BUGGER.... THEY CAN'T PROSECUTE US A'!!!!
...SO JUST THINK HOW MANY THERE'LL BE IN ENGLAND AND WALES!! C'MON YOU PEOPLE — TELL THIS GOVERNMENT TAE SHOVE THE WHOLE SCHEME UP THEIR AIRSES WHERE IT BELONGS!!!

The first 2 weeks in March saw angry demonstrations against the Poll Tax throughout England and Wales, as local councils met to set the rate of the Poll Tax for their area. Protests occured in Bristol, Reading, Swindon, Nottingham, Plymouth, Sheffield, all over London, Manchester, Cardiff, to name but a few - from the inner cities, to Tory run towns and villages, people were out to voice their anger against the Poll Tax.

In SOUTHAMPTON 27 people were nicked as people layed seige to the Civic Centre, refusing to leave the Council meeting. The meeting was delayed as cops violently cleared the public gallery....Cops also cleared the public gallery at NEWCASTLE Town Hall as over 600 people gathered, and LEEDS where people forced their way into the Council building. 7 people were nicked in NORWICH as over 2000 people demonstrated outside the City Hall. Windows and furniture were damaged inside.

At HACKNEY in east London, over 5000 people gathered outside the Town Hall to demonstrate their anger against the Poll Tax. The Council had earlier had the place boarded up, and brought in a private security firm to prevent anyone from getting in, and hundreds of cops were put on standby. Earlier in the day, Council workers walked out in protests at the 'Fort Knox' conditions in which they were expected to work.

POLL TAX

Scuffles with the Police soon began as they tried to make a number of arrests. Smoke bombs, bottles, cans, etc, were thrown at the cops as they contiued to wade into the crowd keen on arresting anyone they could lay their hands on. The crowd took to the main road, Mare Street, as the cops attempt to clear the area surrounding the Town Hall, but again the cops have to retreat under a hail of stones, bottles, and sticks. The cops then charged the crowd making a few more arrests. Pitched battles followed as the cops attempt to clear Mare Street, hoping people would disperse and go home. Paving slabs were broken up for ammo, and cop cars are attacked. About 30 shops had their windows trashed - people picked their targets, leaving pubs and smaller shops, but attacking chain-stores, banks and building societies, McDonalds etc.

TAX

A number of TV's and videos are liberated.

Hackney Police station was also attacked, having windows smashed, and an approaching cop car gets smashed and turned over as it's occupants get out to try and make a few arrests.

57 people were arrested on various charges ranging from serious public order offences, burglary, obstruction, and stealing a Chief Constable's hat! Over 30 Police needed medical treatment for injuries.

WE ALL LOVE COP CARS

37 people were arrested in BRIXTON, south London, and 10 cops injured as fighting broke out towards the end of a rally of over 3000 people outside the Town Hall. Cops were pelted with bottles, bricks, and paint, and a patrol car turned over, it's occupant being hospitalised. Similar scenes occured in Islington, north London, as cops tried to clear people from the main road, Upper Street. This time it was a cop van that went topsy-turvey!

MOB

Also in north London, HARINGEY Council failed to set a Poll Tax rate after 700 people turned up to demonstrate outside the Civic Centre. Police had to clear the public gallery as the meeting was disrupted by anti-Poll Tax chants etc. Scuffling with the cops started as they tried to arrest someone, and the traffic was halted as people decided to take to the High road. 13 people were arrested. The Council rescheduled the meeting for early morning a few days later, and finally set the Poll Tax rate at £572.89. (The highest in the country!)

'KILL THE PIGS'

'Poll Tax Mob Loot Shops','Demo Fury', 'Mob Rule','Night The Thugs Took Over', 'Kill The Pigs' - As usual, the great British press tried to whip up mass hysteria over the week long demo's against the Poll Tax. In an attempt to distract from the real issue, that being that the Poll Tax is totally unfair, the media and Police were quick to distort and lie about the demonstrations, blaming them on 'outside agitators', 'trotskyites','members of Class War', 'extreme left-wingers bussed in by Militant',etc. Yes, there were many outside agitators present outside the Town Halls - they were easily identified by their blue uniforms, helmets, and truncheons!

WE AIN'T PAYING!

The truth of the matter is that the vast majority of demonstrators were local people pissed off with the Poll Tax, pissed off with local councils, (many of whom say they are against it, but say they have to implement it), pissed of with the Government, pissed off with the Labour Party, and pissed off with the Police, who'll no doubt be on hand when the Councils send in the bailiffs against non-payers.

The country-wide demos were a resounding chorus of anger against the Poll Tax. A mass chorus of 'WE AIN'T PAYING!'

YOU CAN BE SURE OF $-HELL

Don't be fooled by Shell's recent glossy advertising campaign, 'You can be sure of Shell', making out how wonderful they are in helping to maintain a green and pleasant land... ...the bastards have just got off lightly with a £1 million fine for pumping Venezuelan crude oil into the River Mersey on Aug 19th 1989. Over 300 sea birds have died as a result of the 20 mile oil slick left along the shoreline. The company said that the pipeline between the oil terminals at Birkenhead and Stanlow had corroded after being in place since 1972, though it was supposed to have lasted for at least 30 years!

An eye witness to the companys oil explorations in Gabon, West Africa has claimed that it has become normal practice to fracture oil pipelines to 'let off' H2 S (Hydrogeon Sulphide) into the air before it presented serious problems (explosions and restricting the flow of oil). The rivers (from which the company draws it's water supplies) are heavily polluted with crude oil and other substances released from these fractures. Shell's own company doctor at one pumping terminal ordered employees not to wash in the camp's water !

Shell currently has a couple of successful offshore wells in Gabonese waters and has found 2 to 3 more 'good' sites on it's exploration rigs in the area. To speed up the drilling on the exploration rigs, an eyewitness claims, a substance banned by international convention, Eposand, is used down the bore holes (this is a mixture of Pheynal, Bi-Pheynal and Epoxy resin). Mis-use of Eposand has resulted in at least 3 major accidents on board rigs. The witness described one accident where five 200 gallon drums broke open and showered the deck crew with Eposand causing large areas of skin to peel from crew members and burning some to the extent that 'limbs were falling off'.

ECHOMEDIA benefit

We held a benefit night for London Echomedia in early January which raised just over £200. This enables us to get this bulletin (and the next) printed and mailed-out. We also donated £35 each to Counter-Information, London Anarchist Black Cross and Leeds Abortion Fund. Thanks for everyone who helped out on the night and those who came along.

RUN NAZI RUN!

Hundreds of anti-fascists turned out to try and stop the National Front from marching at their annual 'Remembrance Day Parade' in November. The pub where the nazis were due to meet was occupied by anti-fascists during the morning and later took over the area around Trafalgar Square, despite a massive police operation to keep them on the move and dispersed. 200 NF managed to march with a large police escort down past the Cenotaph, many anti-fascists getting chased by the cops and nicked when trying to get anywhere near the nazis.

On the same day, in York, the British National Party failed to materialise in any numbers after at least 500 anti-fascists turned out to stop their rally.

A month later, in Edingburgh, several hundred demonstrators broke away from a 3000 stromg demo against the British National Party who were meeting at Haymarket train station to hold a rally. BNP leader, John Tyndall, was amongst 4 or 5 facists who were bundled into the train station by the police when the anti-fascists tried to get at them. In Glasgow, fascists arriving at the Queen Street station were sent home by the Glasgow Anti-Fascists who were waiting for them !

a woman's right to choose

Anti-Abortionists are raising their ugly heads again, and are using the Embryo Research Bill to attack a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. The Bill, (which has already seen a defeat in the House of Lords), seeks to stop experiments on human embryos after 14 days. Whilst remaining seperate from abortion legislation, ammendments have been added, meaning if carried, would cut the abortion time limit from 28 weeks to 24 weeks. This latest attack on women's rights comes only 18 months after the defeat of MP David Alton's anti-abortion Bill.

Outside of Parliament, Anti-Abortion groups such as 'Rescue' have taken a more militant approach, and have held demonstrations and pickets outside Abortion clinics, obstructing staff and women wanting an abortion. The same tactics have been used in the U.S. by 'Operation Rescue' who physically and mentally harrass women attending abortion clincs. So far in this country 'Rescue' have not been very successful, their activities have not been widespread. As in the U.S. there have been counter-pickets against 'Rescue' and volunteer escorts have helped women passed the anti-abortionists, whose methods can be extremely harrowing for women wanting abortions. 'Rescue' have vowed to 'step up the action'.

On the 17th February, there was a demo called for by 'Stop the Amendment Campaign' against a meeting at the Royal Albert Hall organised by CARE. (Christian Action Research & Education). CARE and several thousand supporters, (including various MPs - David Alton, Ann Widdecombe, Bernard Braine), had gathered for an evening of 'prayer, praise, music and teaching'. The gathering was continually disrupted by very vocal pro-choice demonstrators, who stormed the stage during Braine's (read BRAINLESS!) speech, and let off a smoke bomb during Alton's. After the meeting Bernard Braine was physically attacked.

WOMEN GO WILD!

A WILD WOMEN'S WEEKEND is to be held in London between May 5th-7th...3 days of workshops, videos, parties, bands, food, etc. Disabled access may not be brilliant but they'll be plenty of help for those needing it, also they'll be signers and European translators....further details from, 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24, ENGLAND. All women welcome!

Warum nennen wir die Polizisten auch "Bullen"?

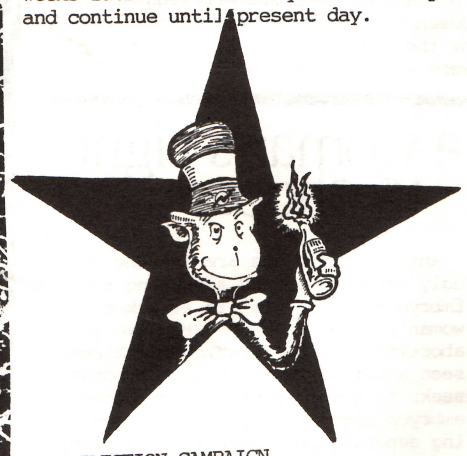
GREEK DIARY

29th September : Demonstration in support of Italian anarchists A.Bonnano and G.Stazzi (framed for the attempted robbery of a jeweller's shop). The cops keep a close eye on the demonstrators. A few hours later groups of anarchists throw rocks and molotovs at the Italian Institute of Athens.

4th-7th October : The killer cop, Melistas (responsible for the death of Mihalis Kaltetzas, a 15-year old anarchist, in 1985) is let loose after serving 9 months in jail. In response, anarchist groups attack banks and cops.

5th October : A new squat comes together as part of the protest actions against Melistas aquittal. Riot police station themselves nearby.

8th October : Demo in support of the new squat is held and followed by scores of riot-police. As the demo dissolves, riot-police follow induviduals into downtown Athens. The squatters later decide to leave the building. A few weeks later two other squats start up and continue until present day.



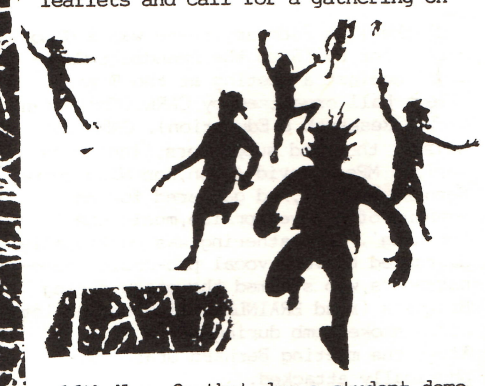
ANTI-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

For weeks anarchist groups participate in a wide range of anti-election actions. Posters, stickers, defacement of electoral party posters, attacks on electoral offices are some of the things undertaken. Anti-election propaganda is distributed at various work-places in Athens and other cities. A special anti-election brochure is published by the Anarchist Coil.

....Athens explodes

5th November : Election farce takes place and no clear winner emerges once again.

15th-17th Novemeber : The 16th anniversary of the Polytechnic uprising takes place (commemorating the '73 insurrection). Under the motto, "Let us turn the uprising of the Polytechnic into a daily reality", anarchists distribute leaflets and call for a gathering on



16th Nov. On that day a student demo outside the American base in Athens is attacked by riot-police.The leftists return, marching towards the Poly. The anarchists decide to join the march and respond to the police repression with direct action. Electoral offices of the Conservative Party are destroyed and two anti-terrorist cops are attacked with petrol bombs. Barricades are put up and torched and more bricks and mollies are thrown at police,who respond with tear-gas. This continues for another hour before the police disperse.

17th November : During the annual march from the Polytechnic to the American Embassy, approx. 2000 anarchists and other 'social proletarians' join the march, now about 60,000 people. A section of the building that houses the Ministry of Interior is set alight, aswell as a cop van, electoral offices and more banks.

Late November : Thessaloniki's (a major city in the North) water company drills for water in the area of Aravissos nearby. The locals react by stating that the search for water seriously disturbs the ecological balance of the area. Riot cops are called in to 'calm things down'. A coalition of groups, including anarchists, participate in support actions. A group burns down the drilling station and six people are arrested in the clashes that ensue.

5th December : Kostas Grivas, a young man who was framed and did time for supposedly chucking a molly at a bank, is aquitted during his retrial.

6th December : Anarchist solidarity group attacks the offices of the water company in Athens with mollies in support of the struggle in Aravissos.

7th December : Anarchist groups participate in a gathering organized by the 'General Confederation of Greek Workers'. Anarchists distribute leaflets and spray-paint trolleys with slogans denouncing the State, capital, union bureaucracy and the social consensus.

Source ; Anarchist Coil

COPS KILL ANTI FASCIST

On 17th Nov/89, Conny was killed as a result of police action against an anti-fascist demonstration in Gottingen, West Germany. Confrontations with Gottingen's neo-fascists and skinheads have been taking place regulary each weekend over the months beforehand, with the police always observing the nazi's actions without making arrests against them, but taking them into 'protective custody' and charging the anti-fascists as soon as they fight back, like the previous weekend when the nazis attacked the youth-autonomist squat,JUZI.

Fighting broke out with about a dozen fascists in Burger Street close to the student bar, "Apex", though it was soon broken up by the cops who nicked one of the anti-fascists. A short time later police follow a group of 25 anti-fascists along Weender Street and erect a road block, attempting to surround the group. People listen in to the cop-radio, hearing the cops; "should we flatten them ?"... ..."why ?"....."otherwise they'll take the law into their own hands"....."we have enough forces to do it"..etc.

Police then moved in, encircling the anti-fascists and attack them with clubs and CS gas. Conny is chased by the pigs into the path of a passing car and is killed. The cops continue; "everyone to the ground!"...."you can join her!" like many others before her, Gunter Sare, Hans Jurgen Rattay...

Immediately afterwards demonstrators erected a barricade and set it alight. A spontaneous demonstration of about 500 people marched from the JUZI to where the murder took place. Next day over 2000 people demonstrate through dowtown Gottingen. Graffitti on the walls and some banks loose their windows. Another barricade is erected at the JUZI.

FIGHT BACK

During the following week, police from all over northern Germany descended on Gottingen and a kind of crisis situation prevailed. Other demos happen in other parts of the country.

In Hamburg response was quick. On the same night of Connie's death, about 200 demonstrators meet in the community centre 'Rote Zora' before beginning a march during which several small shops had their windows smashed. A police station was also attacked.

In Munich 80 people demonstrated on the same day, though the cops pushed them into the sidestreets and were encircled by the cops and forced to submit to i.d. checks. Other demos took place in Bielefield and W. Berlin. Eight hundred to a thousand people accompanied by a huge police contingent marched down the Kurfurstendam (fancy cafes and shops for the rich). About 200 masked autonomists broke shops windows and destroyed cars in the new car lot in Kreuzberg.

On Sat Nov/25th, a national demo was called for in Gottingen. Fifteen to twenty thousand people demonstrated against the killing of Connie. Later on banks, jewellers and a department store were attack, aswell as another police station. After the rally, cops stormed the square in their hundreds, setting up water cannons etc (though they were not used). Ninety-seven cops injured, 2 demonstrators hospitalised and 10 people arrested.

(Translated from leaflet)

ABC RAIDED IN NEW YORK

On 24th January at 6.45am, over a hundred cops raided the ABC (AlphaBet City) community centre in East Side, New York and evicted the squatters living there. This was the latest round in the city council's attack on the homeless.

The ABC community centre was first occupied by squatters in the autumn of last year after the building had been left empty for years and after 90 or so homeless people had been evicted from Tompkins Square Park. The occupation was supported by the local tenants and the squatters began to organise meetings, various classes in job skills, language, political education, art and crafts etc. Free clothes and a free meal were available to anyone who showed up there, but it was more than just all this - ABC was a direct response to the violence and alienation of being forced to live on the streets.

The cops went in wearing special protective suits, breaking through the roof, the rear and the front of the building with the use of blow torches and other devices in this suprise attack. Though the 'telephone tree' of supporters was activated, the pigs finally managed to get inside and arrest 10 people and charge them with 'criminal trespass'. Within a few hours from kicking the squatters onto the streets again, city workers were seen putting up a sign on the building which read, "Capital Budget Housing Program...Supported Housing for the Homeless"!!

Source: Shadow, New York

STUFF ON POLAND (from national press) thanks to C.

Fans on rampage

About 1,000 soccer fans rampaged after a match in the Polish city of Krakow yesterday, smashing windows in the Soviet consulate and Communist party headquarters and damaging cars, shops and flats. — Reuter

Solidarity demo

Youths in Warsaw set fire to an effigy of President Jaruzelski yesterday and threw petrol bombs to mark the eighth anniversary of martial law, which was imposed to crush the Solidarity free trade union movement. — Reuter 14.12.89

SWEDEN & DENMARK

Actions against Shell have continued all across Sweden in recent months ; windows going through, rent - car tyres getting slashed, bomb threats by the "Armed Anarchist Front" etc. Last September two guys were up in court accused of an action against a Shell filling station in the small town of Växjö (which occured in May '88). They both pleaded 'not guilty', but said they sympathised with the action because of Shell's involvement in South Africa. The action had been witnessed by a 55 year old engineer who had called the cops and had the two arrested. Though now, in court, he said at the time of calling the cops he had no idea that Shell was helping prop up the fascist regime in S.A. and if he'd had any idea he wouldn't of gone to the police. He went on to say that he couldn't remember if the two in court were the guys he'd seen carry out the action and ended his statement expressing support for the anti-Shell activists! The two suspects were let go...

ATTACK ON UNISYS IN COPENHAGEN

"....Solidarity with the people of El Salvador.....The night before monday 4th December, we attacked the Danish headquaters of Unisys, at Blegdamsvej in Copenhagen. We have painted, smashed windows and thrown in stinking acid into the offices, to disrupt their work and show which future they deserve. In this way we show our solidarity with the fighting people of El Salvador..... ...Venceremos".

On Friday 16th October the police attacked a legal BZ/squatters demo in Copenhagen. In an action against the police violence and in support of the BZ-ers a solidarity group smashed the windows of two banks in Arhus and graffittied the Courthouse.

MACATTACK!!

During the same evening, as part of the International Day of Action Against McDonalds a group in Arhus smashed the windows of a big Mac burger joint and lobbed in paint.

McDeadly McGarbage McProfits

As part of the International Day of Action Against McDonalds over a 100 people demonstrated outside all the McDonalds joints in Gothenburg, dishing out leaflets, making lots of noise etc. In the evening a debate and film highlighting McDonalds role in rainforest destruction etc was held and a little later some constructive vandalism occured. In Malmö too, McDonalds have been paid visits by activists, leading to some customers throwing their Big Macs out onto the pavements outside!

McHunger McDollars

Anarchists go on rampage in Warsaw

3.1.89

Anarchists waving black flags and shouting "down with prices" rampaged through Warsaw yesterday, smashing windows in the Polish Senate, forcing a suspension of debates, and at Communist party headquarters.

The group, in the first street protest against harsh economic austerity imposed by the Solidarity-led government, also marched on Solidarity headquarters and ripped down posters.

At no time did the police intervene, and later the Communist party complained about their inaction. — Reuter

46 Polish police hurt in protest

Forty-six Polish policemen were injured and 19 people arrested during a protest on Wednesday to mark the eighth anniversary of the imposition of martial law, state television said yesterday.

Fifteen police vehicles and an unknown number of private cars were damaged, and petrol bombs were thrown, during the anti-Communist protest in the north-west port of Szczecin —

Echomedia

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